

Appl. No. : 09/155,720
Filed : February 14, 2001

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Matters of Form

Applicant has amended Claim 3 to correct the informality noted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Cox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,824,040). Claims 4-10 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et. al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to more particularly and distinctly claim Applicant's invention. Specifically, Claim 1 recites, in part, a bifurcated vascular graft comprising "a hollow tubular body member having first and second open ends, said second end defining a first opening; a first hollow tubular limb member having first and second open ends; and a second hollow tubular limb member having first and second open ends wherein the first open end of each of said first and second hollow tubular limb members extend through said first opening and are connected to the hollow tubular body member near the first open end." In contrast, Cox et al. discloses two branch modules 192 that may be deployed through two branch ports 186 formed in a primary trunk module 102. See Col. 16, lines 53-61 and Figure 13. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-17 are also in condition for allowance because they depend upon allowable Claim 1 and recite additional patentable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2-28-03

By: Rabinder N. Narula
Rabinder N. Narula
Registration No. P-53,371
Attorney of Record
2040 Main Street
14th Floor
Irvine, CA 92614
(949) 760-0404